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The E-Rate program has made an incredible difference in the education of the students enrolled in Nome Public Schools (NPS). For the past 13 years I have worked as the Director of Technology in Nome and have seen the impact of this program. The bandwidth that the E-Rate program makes possible would not be an option for the students in our district without the program. A decrease in funding level would have very adverse affects on our student population as we use the internet for so many things.

We are located in Bush Alaska and are required to access the internet via a satellite connection. We use digital learning to provide online classes, meet State Standards, administer online assessments, provide content to teachers and much much more. An example of digital learning in our schools would be the Achieve 3000 program which offers students non-fiction articles on their reading level. These articles will contain the same basic content and meaning but because the program can offer the passages at the student's individual lexile level all students can engage in reading the content and participating in classroom conversations and activities. Another example is our online grade book and the student/parent access it provides. Parents or students can log in at anytime to review their assignments and grades. This is a very powerful tool has increased both student and parent engagement. Parent have a tool to support learning at home. We also use a program called APEX for credit recovery courses and Advanced placement courses. These are just a few of examples of how we use the our access every day.

This said, Nome Public Schools is barely not able to keep up with demand for access. Every new program, assessment, curriculum out there involves the need for a reliable high-speed network. Currently our internet can only be accessed via a satellite connection an this is extremely expensive. I am very concerned about funding in the future as I am aware that he last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Please support this increase in funding, the education of our Nation depends on it.